



General Services Administration
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408

July 11, 1978

Mr. James E. Ray #65477
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros, TN 37845

Dear Mr. Ray:

This is in reply to your letter of June 27, 1978, concerning records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 31, 1977, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ordered that:

"within ninety (90) days of the date of the entry of this Order, the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall assemble at its headquarters in Washington, D. C., all known copies of the recorded tapes, and transcripts thereof, resulting from the FBI's microphonic surveillance, between 1963 and 1968, of the plaintiff's former president, Martin Luther King, Jr.; and all known copies of the tapes, transcripts and logs resulting from the FBI's telephone wiretapping, between 1963 and 1968, of the plaintiff's offices in Atlanta, Georgia and New York, New York, the home of Martin Luther King, Jr., and places of public accomodation occupied by Martin Luther King, Jr."

The Court further ordered:

"that at the expiration of the said ninety (90) day period, the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall deliver to this Court under seal an inventory of said tapes and documents and shall deliver said tapes and documents to the custody of the National Archives and Records Service, to be maintained by the Archivist of the United States under seal for a period of fifty (50) years."

It was also ordered that:

"the Archivist of the United States shall take such actions as are necessary to the preservation of said tapes and documents

EXHIBIT--A

but shall not disclose the tapes or documents, or their contents, except pursuant to a specific Order from a court of competent jurisdiction requiring disclosure."

These records have not been made available to any researchers since they have been in the custody of the National Archives. Access to the records would require an appropriate court order. We do not know if any researcher has attempted to obtain such an order.

The records are intact as received from the F.B.I. and are stored in a secure area.

If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Clarence F. Lyons, Jr.
CLARENCE F. LYONS, JR.
Chief
Judicial and Fiscal Branch
Civil Archives Division